

# DAILY BULLETIN

MAY 23, 2003

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## INTERNATIONAL HEALTH OFFICIALS ADOPT CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL

U.S. supports treaty, Health Secretary  
Thompson says

Geneva -- The United States joined other member states of the World Health Organization (WHO) May 21 to unanimously adopt the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), a ground-breaking international treaty aimed at curbing tobacco-related deaths worldwide.

Adoption of the treaty by the assembly clears the way for the FCTC to be opened for signature on June 16, 2003. It is the first international treaty negotiated under the auspices of the WHO, the United Nations health agency.

The convention will require the countries that ratify it to impose restrictions on tobacco advertising, sponsorship and promotion; to establish new labeling and clean indoor air controls and to crack down on tobacco smuggling.

Thompson did not specify whether the United States would sign the treaty, but said the U.S. is “carefully reviewing the text.”

At earlier stages of negotiation, concerns emerged that treaty provisions banning tobacco advertising may violate U.S. constitutional guarantees on free speech. That will be one of the matters U.S. officials review as they ascertain whether the United States can ratify the treaty.

The following is the text of Secretary Thompson's remarks as released by the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva.

Remarks of the United States Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control World Health Assembly May 21, 2003

This is an outstanding day when you can stand up and make a step forward for public health.

The reduction of illness, disability and death related to smoking is a key public health objective for the United States. We are keenly aware that smoking presents a real threat to public health. The imperative to act at home and abroad is clear.

Our domestic agenda to counter this threat is multifaceted.

We work hard to educate Americans about the dangers of smoking. We help provide access to anti-smoking resources. We conduct vigorous research on the effects of smoking, and internationally we have dedicated ourselves to support comprehensive global smoking prevention and control.

For example, to help monitor the global tobacco epidemic, the United States in collaboration with the WHO, developed the global youth tobacco survey, which now has been completed in 150 countries.

We have also worked with WHO and international sports organizations through our tobacco-free sports initiative to reduce or eliminate tobacco advertising and sponsorship for sporting events.

As part of the United States commitment to the negotiations of the convention and to facilitate understanding on one aspect of the framework, the United States hosted an international conference at the United Nations in New York to consider measures to address the global problem of illicit trade in tobacco. The treaty recognizes that.

It is no exaggeration to state that the United States is a world leader in anti-smoking efforts.

We have committed more resources than any other country to research, development and evaluation of smoking control programs both at home and abroad.

In addition, as part of our new prevention initiative "Steps to a Healthier US," my department will be providing millions of dollars to cities and communities across our nation to address important chronic diseases such as heart disease and stroke, cancer, asthma and obesity, and will address the risk factors including tobacco use.

Let me say that again: there can be no questioning the profound dedication of the United States to controlling the public health threat from smoking.

I am very proud of that, and we look forward to working with partners from around the world to prevent future death and disease through effective and sustainable global prevention and control efforts.

The global dialogue begun through the FCTC negotiations has been a significant step forward for public health. It is already bearing fruit, as countries start to adopt their own domestic measures to curb smoking.

The culmination of that work will, of course, be the adoption of a finished convention text - and that is why we are all here today - to adopt and celebrate the final FCTC document.

The United States is carefully reviewing the text of the convention that we adopted today. We and our outstanding partners worked hard on this treaty.

Together, we can and will make the global threat of smoking a thing of the past.

#### HEALTH SECRETARY PRAISES PASSAGE OF HIV/AIDS RELIEF BILL

Says it gives "new feeling of urgency, vigor and hope" on AIDS

U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson praised the U.S. Congress May 22 for its rapid action to complete passage of the global HIV/AIDS emergency relief program. The House of Representatives cast the final vote May 21 to send the bill to the president for his signature. President Bush is expected to sign the bill into law before he attends the G-8 Summit in early June.

Thompson said the U.S. aid initiative -- more extensive than that offered by any other nation -- gives the effort to combat the epidemic "a new feeling of urgency, vigor and hope."

Following is the text of the Thompson statement:

Department of Health and Human Services  
May 22, 2003

Statement by Secretary of Health and Human Services  
Tommy G. Thompson Regarding Congressional Passage  
of Global AIDS Funding

I congratulate and thank the members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives for their rapid action in passing legislation responding to the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. Their action, which was achieved in just over 100 days after the President unveiled his proposal in the State of the Union address, is generous and far-sighted. It will make an entirely new level of resources available from the United States to help poor nations that are among those hardest-hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

I cannot overstate the importance of the President's vision and of this action by the Congress. This response by the United States is contributing to a new feeling of urgency, vigor and hope. This "can-do" attitude is fundamental in turning the tide for these nations.

The rest of the world needs to join the United States in this hopeful new vision and in providing the resources to bring it to reality. I have carried that message to all nations at the World Health Assembly this week, and in particular to the wealthy nations of the European Union. The President will reemphasize this call in Europe next month, and I will do the same at further meetings in June at the World Health Organization.

#### U.S. HAILS U.N. VOTE TO LIFT SANCTIONS ON IRAQ

Negroponte calls move "momentous event for the people of Iraq"

The United States expressed its appreciation to the U. N. Security Council May 22 following the overwhelming vote by 14 to 0 vote of the 15-member council to approve the resolution lifting the sanctions imposed on Iraq

since 1991. The other council member, Syria, did not attend the meeting.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Negroponte called the decision a "momentous event for the people of Iraq."

Negroponte said the resolution establishes, among other things, a framework for an orderly phase-out of the Oil-for-Food program, establishes transparency in monitoring the sale of Iraqi oil resources, and lifts export restrictions to Iraq, with the exception of trade in arms.

He thanked the United Nations for playing a vital role in rebuilding Iraq. "The resolution affirms our commitment to the development of an internationally recognized, representative government of Iraq," Negroponte said.

Following is the text of Negroponte's remarks:

Explanation of Vote by Ambassador John D. Negroponte,  
United States Permanent Representative to the United  
Nations, on the Resolution to Lift Sanctions on Iraq,  
Security Council, May 22, 2003

Thank you Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General. The lifting of sanctions marks a momentous event for the people of Iraq. It is the turning of a historical page that should brighten the future of a people and a region.

The threatening actions and defiance of Saddam Hussein's brutal regime prolonged the imposition of sanctions for nearly 13 years. Those sanctions have now been lifted. The liberation of Iraq has cleared the path for today's action. We all witnessed an Iraqi state under Saddam Hussein that was unwilling adequately to feed its people, a state in which critical infrastructure projects were left to languish while luxurious palaces were built, and a state in which free political expression was cruelly repressed and punished. Together, this Council has taken decisive action to help the Iraqi people.

My government called for this vote this morning because we firmly believed that each additional day of debate over the language of this important text would further hinder recovery. The gas lines are long, despite blessedly little damage to Iraq's residual infrastructure. After more than a decade of being frozen out of the world economy, it is time for the Iraqi people to benefit from their natural resources.

President Bush and Prime Minister Blair said last month at Hillsborough that the United Nations should play a vital role in rebuilding Iraq.

In passing this resolution, we have achieved much for the Iraqi people. By recognizing the fluidity of the political situation and that decisions will be made on the ground, the Security Council has provided a flexible framework under Chapter VII for the Coalition Provisional Authority, member states, the United Nations and others in the international community to participate in the administration and reconstruction of Iraq and to assist the Iraqi people in determining their political future, establishing new institutions, and restoring economic prosperity to the country.

The resolution affirms our commitment to the development of an internationally recognized, representative government of Iraq. It creates a robust mandate for a Special Representative of the Secretary General, including to work with the people of Iraq, the Authority, and others concerned -- including neighboring states -- to help make this vision a reality.

The resolution establishes a framework for an orderly phase-out of the Oil-for-Food program, thereby preserving, for a transitional period, what has become an important safety net for the people of Iraq.

The resolution establishes transparency in all processes and United Nations participation in monitoring the sale of Iraqi oil resources and expenditure of oil proceeds. In that context, I am pleased to announce the creation of the Development Fund for Iraq in the Central Bank of Iraq. As the resolution underlines, the Authority will disburse the funds only for the purposes it determines to benefit the Iraqi people.

The resolution lifts export restrictions to Iraq, with the exception of trade in arms and related materiel not required by the Coalition Provisional Authority. Aviation restrictions are also lifted, but Iraq's disarmament obligations remain and member states remain barred from assisting Iraq in acquiring weapons of mass destruction, proscribed missile systems or proceeding with civil nuclear activities so long as those restrictions remain in effect.

The resolution provides Iraq with adequate time to recover capacity eroded during the sanctions years, yet it preserves its obligations to Kuwait and others who

suffered from Saddam Hussein's aggression dating from 1990. It addresses Iraq's sovereign debt, protection of Iraqi antiquities and accountability for serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by the previous regime. It also directs member states to act quickly to seize and return to the Iraqi people money stolen by Saddam Hussein's regime.

But, Mr. President, we cannot be complacent. Now that we have adopted this resolution, the work must begin on implementing it. The Secretariat and the new Special Representative of the Secretary General must prepare for their work on the urgent humanitarian, reconstruction and political tasks, to which it will contribute. Member states must work to fulfill the obligations and provisions contained in the resolution. For our part, in addition to our responsibilities in Iraq as leaders of the Coalition Provisional Authority, we will undertake to inform the Council on a quarterly basis of progress in implementing the resolution, in the spirit of Operational Paragraph 24.

The United States is appreciative of the constructive spirit with which the Council has considered and strengthened the provisions of the text we put forward with our co-sponsors. We look forward to working closely with all of you to implement this important decision.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

#### U.S. OFFERS ADDITIONAL \$67 MILLION TO AID PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

Total U.S. contributions to UNRWA reach \$97 million in 2003 fiscal year

Following is a media note from the State Department May 22 concerning the latest U.S. contribution to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees in the Middle East:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE Office of the Spokesman May 22, 2003

U.S. Contributes Additional \$67 Million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

The United States announced an additional \$67 million contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), bringing to \$95 million the total U.S. contribution this fiscal year to help Palestinian refugees. This new contribution was announced today at the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East Donors Conference in Amman, Jordan.

Of this \$67 million contribution, \$52 million will specifically support the agency's core programs for education, health and social services benefiting approximately four million Palestinian refugees registered with the organization in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. The West Bank and Gaza will receive \$15 million to support emergency programming for refugees.

Earlier this year, the United States contributed \$28 million to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East's General Fund.

The United States remains committed to supporting the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, which provides critical services to Palestinian refugees. The agency is a force for stability in the Middle East and is an irreplaceable partner in addressing emergency humanitarian needs in the West Bank and Gaza. The United States is the single largest donor.

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